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COUNTRY : USSR/East Germany

SUBJECT : Additional Information on Missile Units in the
Group of Soviet Forces, Germany (GSFG)

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1. The four missile brigades stationed with the GSFG in East Germany are believed to have been there between 18 months and two years, the first of them having arrived some two years ago and the last about 18 months ago. One of the brigade commanders is known to have been posted there in 1960. The brigade he commands was there some time before his arrival.

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2. The missile brigades have been inspected at least twice during 1961 by Chief Marshal of Artillery Varentsov, who also visited all artillery and army staff headquarters. During one of these visits Varentsov met with Major-General of Artillery Kupin in Dresden. In the late summer of 1961 Kupin was transferred to the USSR as Artillery Commander of the Moscow Military District in place of Col. Gen. Likhachev, on the latter's retirement.

3. The commander of a brigade of the type with the GSFG can be either a colonel or a major general; if a colonel does particularly well, he can be promoted to major general since the slot is for a major general. At present two of the brigades are commanded by colonels and two by major generals. There is a Deputy Brigade Commander for Engineering Matters, and a battalion engineer for each battalion who is responsible for storage, maintenance, and operational readiness of the missiles. In this connection, there is an overall shortage of trained technical personnel.

4. One of the brigades with the GSFG has two missile units of fire, one in readiness with the units, the second in the brigade rear area. Four units of fire are allotted for its initial mission, although in fact there should be twelve in all, echeloned back in depth for several hundred kilometers. The units do not have nuclear warheads; these are stored under the command of the Artillery Directorate of the Group of Forces.

5. Because the existing supply dumps for artillery in the GSFG were not adequate for storing missiles, larger protective storage structures had to be erected; these are both higher and longer than the normal structures and can be spotted easily as they are difficult to camouflage. According to one officer, leaks which were discovered when fueling the missiles had been caused by "sabotage" by West German "diversionists".

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7. Colonel-General Frolov, present Commander of Artillery of the GSFG, is to be replaced by Colonel-General Pyrskiy or Lieutenant-General Khodakovskiy.

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